

APPROVED: MEETING NO. 24-93

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 19-93

May 17, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on May 17, 1993, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember David Robbins (Mayor Pro Tem)

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan (absent on travel)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Councilmember Robbins was designated as Mayor Pro Tem for the evening's meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Robbins noted there were two public hearings scheduled this evening. In addition, he noted that the Budget Worksession originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th would be moved to this evening immediately following adjournment of the Public Hearing.

Re: Public Hearing to consider a  
proposed Ordinance to levy  
Special Assessments for  
construction of Wootton Parkway

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(Ritchie) between Seven Locks Road and Rockville Pike. Project No. 1D11.

The Mayor and Council conducted a Public Hearing to consider a proposed Ordinance to levy Special Assessments for construction of Wootton Parkway (Ritchie) between Seven Locks Road and Rockville Pike. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, the Mayor Pro Tem declared the public hearing to be continued to June 21, 1993 (based on a request for continuance made by the representative of Woodmont Country Club).

Re: Public Hearing to consider a proposed Ordinance to levy Special Assessments for construction of Wootton Parkway (Ritchie) water transmission main and appurtenances between Seven Locks Road and Rockville Pike. Project No. 4A33.

The Mayor and Council conducted a Public Hearing to consider a proposed Ordinance to levy Special Assessments for construction of Wootton Parkway (Ritchie) water transmission main and appurtenances between Seven Locks Road and Rockville Pike. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, the Mayor Pro Tem declared the public hearing to be continued to June 21, 1993 (based on a request for continuance made by the representative of Woodmont Country Club).

Re: Citizens Forum. Time set aside to hear from any citizen who wishes to address the Mayor and Council.

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There being no citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor Pro Tem closed the Citizens Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: Briefing by Jim Kahn, Senior vice President, Southwestern Bell Corporation, and John Eddy, President, Cable TV Montgomery, regarding the transfer of ownership of Cable TV Montgomery from Hauser Communications to Southwestern Bell.

City Manager Romer commented that the briefing from Southwestern Bell was purely an informational presentation this evening; the Mayor and Council were not approving such transfer at this time.

John Evans, President of Hauser Communications and Jim Kahn, Senior Vice President, Southwestern Bell Corporation briefed the Mayor and Council on the history of Southwestern Bell which in 1984 was a regional telephone company and has since expanded nationally and internationally. Mr. Kahn said they were attracted to Hauser Properties because of its quality management and commitment to cable services. He discussed Southwestern Bell's vision for the future and said that technologies that exist today are being used in other parts of their business, and these technologies would create significant advantages in economic development and new services would begin to be offered within the next 3-5 years.

Mr. Kahn stated that a public forum would be held by the Cable Advisory Committee later in the month. Mr. Romer confirmed that the dates of all upcoming hearings would be publicized in Rockville Reports and Cable 53.

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Re: FYI/Correspondence

Falls Road/Maryland Avenue No Turn On Red

Councilmember Krasnow said she agreed that there was no point for the No Turn on Red restriction with Julius West School closing for two years; however she expressed concern that removal of the restriction not be open ended. Mr. Romer said that staff had asked State Highway for a review period just before the start of school.

Councilmember Marrinan questioned whether there were continuing concerns about after school activities and asked if these after school activities had been taken into consideration?

Councilmember Krasnow said one of the original requests was for a push button walk signal and she wasn't sure why this was not sufficient. She said now there was a sidewalk on the east side, and asked if it was possible for the pedestrian crosswalk to be moved further up Falls Road. Mr. Romer was asked to look into this matter.

Changeable Message Signs

Councilmember Krasnow asked what type of signage was being proposed for the East Jefferson/Rollins intersection and the Washington Street/Courthouse Square intersection.

Mr. Romer responded that the changeable message signs would be on a timer system and would have "No Left Turn" messages; the message that the motorist saw would depend on the time of day.

Re: New Business

1. Councilmember Marrinan said that as a member of the Council of Government (COG) Board of Directors, he recently visited the White House as part of a series of meetings on regional concerns. Lorretta Avant in the White House Office of Intergovernmental

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Affairs, met with other election officials; the thrust of that meeting was that the Administration wants regional cooperation with local governments and they intend to have a series of meetings over next couple of years. Mr. Marrinan said he was impressed with the commitment shown by the Administration.

2. Mr. Marrinan also noted that COG was asking for local government support of Red Cross blood drive efforts in this area. He said because of the low donation efforts in this area, there would be a shortfall in the area's blood supply. Mr. Marrinan read a Resolution which COG had passed that encouraged local governments' participation in the 1993-94 local government blood program. Mr. Marrinan asked the City Manager to review the City's policy regarding blood donation.

Councilmember Robbins commented that the Mayor and Council supported Mr. Marrinan's comments and encouraged the City to participate in the local government blood donation program.

2. Councilmember Coyle commented on the speeding problems at Jefferson and West Montgomery Avenue. He said the neighbors were concerned about resolving and enforcement of these problems. Mr. Coyle questioned that when the road was completed, was there a need for new signage and he asked that the City Manager look into this.

3. Mr. Coyle commented that the City was doing a nice job with the median strips on Falls Road; however, he said that he has heard concerns that the side areas were not being kept up between Rt. 270 and Ritchie Parkway. Mr. Coyle asked if the State or County was accountable for this.

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Mr. Romer confirmed that State Highway was responsible for this, and said he would ask Staff to look into the matter.

Councilmember Krasnow commented that the repaving on the north side of Falls Road had left a considerable amount of debris in the road which caused problems for pedestrians; she asked that the City Manager also call the State on this matter or have City staff remove the debris.

4. Councilmember Krasnow said she had been concerned with the feedback she has heard concerning the "Tear It Down" banner. She said the sign has raised the ire of many of the community's business owners, and she asked if the banner could be taken down.

Councilmember Marrinan commented that the banner had outlived its purpose and he said the City's business owners had a legitimate right to be concerned about what appeared to be favorable status for adhering to the City's banner laws.

Ms. Krasnow questioned if staff had any plans to bring forward amendments to liberalize the city's banner laws.

Without objection, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council reached consensus on having the City Manager arrange for removal of the banner.

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council reconvened in Worksession at 8:47 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions Room, Rockville City Hall.

Re: Worksessions on FY94  
Operating Budget

Police Department

Chief Treschuk reported that the Police Budget showed a slight increase of 4%. He reported that the department would continue the COP (Community Oriented Policing) program, the

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current level of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, police academy training. The department was also preparing for an accreditation hearing in November.

Councilmember Coyle suggested that the department develop a way (e.g., a video, brochure) to inform citizens about the accreditation process and what was involved.

Councilmember Coyle also raised the idea of the City looking again at the feasibility of using motorized bikes.

#### Personnel Department

Rich Hajewski, Director of Personnel highlighted the following issues relating to Personnel. There was a decrease of under 5% for the total operating budget.

The policies and procedures manual was coming along well. The department was looking at 75 policies and procedures which would be set forth for implementation after review by the City Manager. A "spin-off" of the manual will be an employee handbook which will be distributed to every employee. Staff will be focusing on courses that train managers how to take advantage of employee skills.

Councilmember Krasnow questioned why the employee reception was being done in conjunction with the awards ceremony and held in lieu of the social event. Ms. Krasnow commented that this proposal and other budget cut-backs might adversely affect employee morale. The City Manager was asked to propose some other options for funding the employee events; the Mayor and Council will take up these options at a later time.

#### Public Works

Bob Goodin, Director of Public Works reported that Public Works would continue a wide range of maintenance programs (including snow removal). Mr. Goodin highlighted three key

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programs:

Sanitation, sewage - costs show a 13% increase because of mandated rules by the Blue Plains facility.

Stormwater Management - showing an increase due to the shift from Parks to Public Works.

Solid Waste Disposal - bids for this service will be summarized in a report for presentation to the Mayor and Council in late July. The County has not decided what the tipping fee would be and the City probably would not know this until June.

Councilmember Marrinan questioned whether an assessment or tax for stormwater issues would show up in the FY94 budget. Mr. Romer responded that this would not be in the FY94 budget; it would have to be dealt with later but the City would not lose sight of the issue.

Mr. Goodin noted that the smooth seal program and concrete maintenance program be deferred.

Councilmember Krasnow questioned whether the stormwater waiver fund would be sufficient to keep up with the costs of the water plant. Mr. Goodin reported that he is looking at a review of the system wide structure and the program is going well. The Mayor and Council asked to see the results of Mr. Goodin's analysis.

Councilmember Coyle commented that he had heard positive comments about the water facility and he suggested that staff plan similar tours of other City facilities.

#### Community Services

Josephine Roberts, Director of Community Services discussed the following issues with respect to her department's budget.



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Staff have been looking at ways the department has been providing services to residents and how certain programs can be taken over by other organizations. Supervisors in special services and youth services were overloaded with managing those divisions and dealing with cases. A decision was made to add an administrator and a project manager and this reorganization of the department should result in some improvement in the case load

Councilmember Coyle questioned whether the department was expecting an increase in needs by Hispanics United for Rockville. Ms. Roberts responded that the department was not referring clients to HUR; however Community Services has been working closely and meeting twice a month with HUR.

Councilmember Coyle mentioned that during the worksession with the Human Resource Commission, there was some mention of the use of mediation programs to handle disputes. Ms. Roberts responded that the use of mediation programs for handling disputes was a very new concept. Mr. Romer added that this concept would involve development of a new program and the Community Services budget was not recommending any new programs for FY94.

#### Finance Department

Kevin Deckard, Director of Finance, highlighted the following issues:

There was a \$40,000 cost increase for a banking contract which resulted when the City changed banks.

The department purchased remote meter reading equipment to reduce the amount of data entry. Data Processing was gearing up to train their staff to work towards personal computers rather than mainframes.

Councilmember Coyle questioned whether the City's banks participate in the

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Community Reinvestment Act. Mr. Deckard responded that Crestar did participate. Staff was asked to get information to the Mayor and Council on how Crestar was doing with this.

#### Recreation and Parks

Director Burt Hall reported on the following programs and issues:

The department took a careful look at user fees and decided to raise some while maintaining others. The levels of staffing at playgrounds and after school sites were decreased in some areas. In the area of program sports, staffing was increased because costs for this can be offset by program fee increases.

A comprehensive pay classification study resulted in a new merit pay scale that went from 5% to 2.5%; staff to get a copy of the new pay scale to the Mayor and Council.

Staff was working towards a one year fund budget for the Senior Center. The same basic package of special events would continue in FY94; staff was working towards bringing more of the City's business community into joint programs.

A discussion ensued about the antique car show and Rockville Day. Staff is continuing to look at this event which has essentially become two separate events.

Mr. Hall reported on special facilities:

- o The pool admissions continue to be a success.
- o The golf course club house project is being completed.
- o There has been a decrease in the amount of social rentals at the Glenview Mansion; however staff will be looking at ways to attract to the Mansion, professional conference planning groups.

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Neal Herst, Director, provided the following overview of his department's budget:

There has been a modest increase in personnel related benefits and costs.

Ideas stemming from the Economic Development Plan include plans for enhancing Rockville as the place to do business. Plans for attracting industrial businesses to the City are included in the Plan as well.

On the planning side, the Master Plan is expected to be completed and presented to the Mayor and Council this summer.

The Inspection Services division is expanding neighborhood inspections and will be working with the Police Department services and neighborhood watch programs on crime and other quality of life issues.

The department will complete the annexation of Irvington Farm.

Councilmember Krasnow asked that staff make an attempt to attract black owned businesses into downtown Rockville.

#### Mayor and Council's Budget and City Clerk's Office

The Mayor and Council asked about the status of previously mentioned plans for improving the Mayor and Council lounge area.

A discussion ensued regarding staffing levels in the City Clerk's office. City Clerk Jewell reported that the election functions would be contracted out to temporary personnel and the responsibility for departmental records management would be on each respective City department.

Councilmember Krasnow noted that the City Clerk's office was now being staffed by two employees and she expressed concern that services to the citizens and Mayor and Council

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would not be impacted and the new City Clerk not feeling overwhelmed as a result of the downsizing.

City Manager

City Manager Bruce Romer noted a correction on page 61 of the Budget Summery which showed a percent change of 2.55%; this should show a decreased amount.

Mr. Romer reported that the full-time management intern position was being dropped. In addition, there was some reorganizing of the Public Information Office and Graphics Office functions.

Councilmember Coyle remarked that the management intern program was good public relations for the City and he would like to see this position put back in the FY94 budget. The Mayor and Council will discuss this issue further at the next Budget worksession.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on May 24, 1993, or at the call of the Mayor.